

REMARKS

New claims 16 through 21 mirror claims which have been asserted in the European counterpart. Specifically, the subject matter of new claim 16 recites the compounds listed in Table 3 of the specification at page 14, lines 22-35, page 15, page 16 and page 17, lines 1-6. It is submitted that the compounds listed in new claim 16 are patentable over the prior art, and notably Webster et al. (WO 99/12543) and Godfrey (GB 2 173 499), which were cited by the Examiner. Webster et al. do not disclose the specific dithiopyrolone derivatives listed in new claim 16.

New claims 17 through 20 are dependent directly or indirectly upon new claim 16, and hence incorporate the limitations of claim 16 and are thus patentable over the prior art. New claim 21 refers to a process for the preparation of the compounds of claim 16, and is supported by the specification at page 19, scheme 2. It is submitted that claim 21 is patentable and is directed to the same invention as claim 16. Godfrey discloses dithiopyrolone derivatives for use as microcides or herbicides. Specifically, Godfrey discloses a method for obtaining dithiopyrolone derivatives by oxidizing two sulhydryl groups, resulting in the formation of a disulfide ridge.

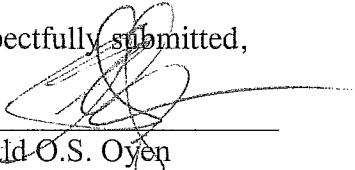
Favorable action on new claims 16 through 21 and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

While it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any lingering concerns about the allowability of the application, and it would be convenient to deal with such objections or concerns over the telephone, the Examiner is

invited to telephone the applicants' patent attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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